WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for determining whether or not a product is a counterfeit product in accordance with product data, the information processing apparatus comprising:

inputting means for inputting product data;

first determining means for determining whether or not the product data input by the inputting means includes first information that is attached to a genuine product and that is not attached to a third party product;

second determining means for determining whether or not the product data input by the inputting means includes second information that is attached to only the genuine product; and

third determining means for determining that a product is a counterfeit product when the product data input by the inputting means includes the first information and does not include the second information.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the product data includes image data.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the product data includes image data and

the first determining means determines whether or not the image data includes, as the first information, an image that is protected by an intellectual property right held by a manufacture of the genuine product.

4.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the image comprises a registered trademark.

5.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the product data includes image data and the second determining means determines whether or not the image data includes, as the second information, an image that does not exist in a counterfeit product.

6.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image comprises a micro-character.

7.   The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inputting means is means for inputting a determination request and the product data from another terminal, and the information processing apparatus further comprises transmitting means for transmitting a determination result obtained by the third determining means to the another terminal.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the product data includes item data that indicates a type of product, and the information processing apparatus further includes a first database in which the first information is stored for each type of product and a second database in which the second information is stored · for each type of product, and wherein the first determining means searches the first database in accordance with the item data to retrieve the first information and determines whether or not the input product data includes the retrieved first information, and the second determining means searches the second database in accordance with the item data to retrieve the second information and determines whether or not the input product data includes the retrieved second information.

9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting means for transmitting a determination result to a predetermined terminal when the third determining means determines that the product is a counterfeit product.

10. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inputting means inputs user information, a determination request, and the product data from a user

terminal, and the information processing apparatus further comprises transmitting means for transmitting a determination result obtained by the third determining means and the user information to a predetermined terminal.

11. An information processing system for determining whether or not a product is a counterfeit product in accordance with product data, the information processing system comprising:

an information processing apparatus that comprises:

first inputting means for inputting product data;

first determining means for determining whether or not the product data input by the inputting means includes first information that is attached to a genuine product and that is not attached to a third party product;

second determining means for determining whether or not the product data input by the inputting means includes second information that is attached to only the genuine product; and

third determining means for determining that a product is a counterfeit product when the product data input by the inputting means includes the first information and does not include the second information;

a user terminal; and

a counterfeit-product's regulatory authority terminal,

wherein the information processing apparatus determines whether or not the product is a counterfeit product in accordance with product data transmitted from the user terminal, and, when it is determined that the product is a counterfeit product, the information processing apparatus transmits a notification indicating that the product is a counterfeit product to the counterfeit-product's regulatory authority terminal.

12. An information processing method for determining whether or not a product is a counterfeit product in accordance with product data, the information processing method comprising:

an inputting step of inputting product data;

a first determining step of determining whether or not the product data input in the inputting step includes first information that is attached to a genuine product and that is not attached to a third party product;

a second determining step of determining whether or not the product data input in the inputting step includes second information that is attached to only the genuine product; and

a third determining step of determining that a product is a counterfeit product when the product data input in the inputting step includes the first information and does not

include the second information.

13. The information processing method according to
claim 12, wherein the product data includes image data.

14. The information processing method according to
claim 12, wherein the product data includes image data and,
in the first determining step, a determination is made as to
whether or not the image data includes an image that is
protected by an intellectual property right held by a
manufacture of the genuine product.

15. The information processing method according to
claim 14, wherein the image comprises a registered trademark.

16. The information processing method according to
claim 12, wherein the product data includes image data and,
in the second determining step, a determination is made as
to whether or not the image data includes, as the second
information, an image that does not exist in a counterfeit
product.

17. A program product comprising:
an inputting step of inputting product data;
a first determining step of determining whether or not

the product data input in the inputting step includes first information that is attached to a genuine product and that is not attached to a third party product;

a second determining step of determining whether or not the product data input in the inputting step includes second information that is attached to only the genuine product; and

a third determining step of determining that a product is a counterfeit product when the product data input in the inputting step includes the first information and does not include the second information.

18. The program product according to claim 17, wherein the product data includes image data.

19. The program product according to claim 17, wherein the product data includes image data and, in the first determining step, a determination is made as to whether or not the image data includes, as the first information, an image that is protected by an intellectual property right held by a manufacture of the genuine product.

20. The program product according to claim 19, wherein the image comprises a registered trademark.

21. The program product according to claim 17, wherein the product data includes image data and, in the second determining step, a determination is made as to whether or not the image data includes, as the second information, an image that does not exist in a counterfeit product.